

October 15, 2006 - Day 6

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*CHRONICLING THE POWDER HORN TRAINING COURSE
HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE AND SHAWNEE TRAILS COUNCILS*

CENTRAL REGION VENTURING: CHRIS SZYBITSY



Christopher C. Szybisty comes to the Central Region from Crew 1589, Detroit Area Council, in Madison Heights, MI. A recipient of the Venturing Leadership Award, Venturing Silver Award, and Eagle Scout rank, Chris brings over eleven years of Scouting experience to the Central Region Venturing team. He has served in many leadership capacities over those years, including Chairman of the 2006 International Scout Forum in Tokyo, Japan, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster at the 2005 National Jamboree, and Lodge Chief.

“I am truly honored to serve and represent the Venturers of the Central Region,” Szybisty said in a recent interview with the Powder Horn Observer Times & Courier. “As a regional Venturing president, I have the unique opportunity to shape and support the very program which shapes and supports me.” He noted that his first responsibility was to the Crew Presidents, the true leaders of the dynamic program. “It is my duty to provide the presidents with the support they deserve. They expect no less.”

The Region’s first priority is to develop the Venturing leadership of those in supporting roles in districts and councils across the region. Unit-serving executives, namely District Executives, are the first focus of this priority. Many councils have already had additional Venturing training for their field staff, and more multi-council cluster trainings are planned. An emphasis on preparing Commissioners for their roles in Venturing crews is also critical to the ultimate success of any crew.

In order to be successful as a region, growing and nurturing the Venturing program, there must be an intimate relationship between Region and council leadership. Area Venturing Leadership will continue to develop these crucial ties with councils in order to provide invaluable program, communication, and training assistance. This caring support will ensure a quality program for each Venturer.

Quest Award Background

Today more than ever, there is emphasis on an ever-increasing variety of sports thanks to the influence of TV. We have mass media coverage of the Super Bowl, World Series, golf and tennis events, winter and summer Olympics, and much more. Sports have become an integral part of our daily lives. However, there is a difference between watching and participating in a sport.

America is more obese and physically unfit than ever. Maybe that goes hand in hand with watching sports rather than playing them. The Quest Award also encourages you to look at the big picture. In addition to the traditional sports like baseball, football, basketball, volleyball, etc., you will be encouraged to learn about and experience a sport that is new to you, like fencing, luge, biathlon, etc.

Sports can have a major impact on your health and state of mind. When you are healthy and physically fit, you are more productive, feel better about yourself, and will probably be healthier overall.

The Quest Award will challenge you. It will not be easy to earn. You will be challenged to investigate new sports disciplines, to earn a degree of proficiency, and then to share your new skills with

others. It is hoped the Quest award will have a positive impact on the rest of your life.



Conducting Ethical Controversies

The mission statement of the BSA notes that as an organization our mission is to "...To prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." In the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs this mission is fulfilled principally through adult association. In Venturing the mission statement is fully applied in that youth are encouraged to engage in discussions about their ethics. The open sharing of how one feels about an issue inside of a safe have presents an unrivaled opportunity to gain a window on the teenage mind and discuss difficult topics and make application of the values of Scouting to everyday life. This activity is seen as so crucial that conducting an Ethics Forum is a requirement for the Venturing Silver Award, the highest award in Venturing.

To effectively conduct an ethics forum, divide the group into small groups of four to six people, youth and adults mixed together. Half of each group will receive one viewpoint from the scenario; the other half receives the other viewpoint. Each half of the small groups should work together to learn the viewpoint and then present the position. The entire small group discusses the issue after both sides presented their viewpoints. Then the groups reverse viewpoints. This helps ensure that all possible views are looked at and presented.

The purpose of an ethics forum is not to reach a decision, but to learn how to think about the issue. A collection of prepared Ethical Controversies, No. 99-223, may be acquired free from your council service center. Crews, working in concert with their chartered organization are encouraged to come up with their own controversies, especially ones that match a crew's focus interest.

Saturday Program

Waking up is never easy, but when you know an adventure awaits, the sight of the sun breaking the darkness of night brings trepidation about what will forthcome. Either in the warmth of a cabin or the coziness of a tent, the morning was chilly as the temperature was in the low 40°s, making a warm breakfast well appreciated. During the meal, participants and staff were reminded by canoeing instructor Tave Lamprez about canoeing safety.

After breakfast participants explored Old Ben Scout Reservation. A round-robin of consulting sessions was the order for the morning. Between taking turns rappelling down the climbing tower, learning about geocaching, and conquering several low COPE elements.

Following a morning of outdoor activity to warm the body and mind, lunch was served... to go! Time was allotted for everyone to finish packing for the afternoon float trip. Back at the dining hall, the familiar Scout busses met the participants and traveled to Velpen, Indiana to put in their canoes on the Patoka River to begin the float trip.

On the river, the skills taught during the canoeing session during weekend one were put to use. Despite several “pirate” canoes, only five people forgot the cardinal rule that Tave went over during breakfast, keep the round side down. Also among the casualties was our consultant himself! Those who fell out quickly realized just how shallow the river is. Upon reaching shore, and changing into dry clothes spirits rose once all the craft and people found the take out location at Pike State Forest.

Back on dry land, starting a fire was the first thing that many people thought about. The staff, on the other hand, were eager to keep the flame of Scouting spirit alive. Prior to departing from weekend one, each crew was asked to plan for an interfaith worship service, and plan what to pack for the overnight camping expedition. Setting up camp and making dinner was the first order of business. After dinner, National Venturing President Maggie Belli spoke about the Nature of Leadership program, followed by a “thorns and roses” session, and a session on working with teenagers. Everyone slept well knowing that in the morning they would be greeted with busses to return them to Old Ben Scout Reservation for the final day of Powder Horn.

Venturing's Guiding Hands: Joe Volmer



From youth crew presidents to the National Venturing Cabinet, Venturing is quietly supported by a number individuals working diligently behind the scenes. In the Central Region, one of the key supporters is Mr. Joe Volmer.

Joe is a life long Scouting enthusiast originally from Belleville, Illinois. As soon as he first heard about Cub Scouting at school, Joe was ready to join. Scouting provided Joe with unique opportunities to try new things, and meet new people. As he moved along the program his enthusiasm showed as he earned many awards including Eagle Scout, and was presented with the Vigil Honor. While many of his Scouting peers were content with staying in the Boy Scout program,



Joe sought out new adventures, and at the time, Exploring was the next logical step. Joe's Explorer Post was an active high adventure group. He fondly recalls Explorer Post activities of camping canoeing, hunting and fishing.

After entering the profession as District Executive in the Delaware County Council (now Crossroads of America Council) in Muncie, Indiana Joe has served over 35 years as a professional Scouter. His service includes tenure as Scout Executive at two different councils, and Joe now serves as the Associate Regional Director for Program. In this capacity, his responsibilities include supporting Venturing throughout the 82 local councils, and working with the Regional Venturing President, and the Regional Venturing Committee. His background as a youth who earned his Eagle Scout Award in an Explorer Post as opposed to in a Boy Scout Troop, and served in various council youth leadership capacities, make Joe into an ideal person to deliver the promise of Venturing today.



Joe, believes that for Venturing to continue to grow, time and effort need to be invested into creating leadership and adventure opportunities for the youth, and providing the training to the adult Advisors to help the youth get the most out of the program. On the youth side that means supporting and promoting Kodiak and council Venturing Officer's Associations/ Teen Leaders' Council, on the adult side such support includes Powder Horn, and course director conferences for both Kodiak and Powder Horn. The latest program item is providing range safety office training for advisors to meet the safety requirements of the Guide to Safe Scouting. In the coming year Joe is working to put together a series of handouts to aid new District Executives in implementing various national Venturing partnership agreements with other organizations. Joe aims to build a complete tool box to assist the unit serving executive in extending the promise of Scouting through today's modern version of the Scouting program that he knew and loved as a youth.



DAY 6 ACTIVITIES

- Breakfast
- Hike back to Old Ben Scout Reservation
- Shooting Sports Safety
- Archery, Rifle, Shotgun Shooting
- Lunch
- High COPE
- Closing Ceremony
- Depart for Home by 5pm